

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ACDA-10 DHA-02 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 /074 W  
-----116586 191724Z /42

R 191556Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO USIA WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 5876  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20903

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: FR, US  
SUBJECT: FRENCHMEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT GISCARD'S  
NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD  
TRIBUNE JULY 18 OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY  
NEWSWEEK SENIOR EDITOR ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE AT  
ELYSEE PALACE WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT VALELY  
GISCARD D'ESTAING, PRESIDENT GISCARD'S REMARK THAT  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS JEOPARDIZED  
THE PROCESS OF DETENTE WITH SOVIET UNION WAS MAJOR  
ITEM ON MORNING RADIO NEWS JULY 19. STORY ALSO  
RECEIVED MODERATE ATTENTION IN TUESDAY MOFNING  
PRESS.

2. ON TELEVISION'S ANTENNE II MONDAY NIGHT  
COMMENTATOR JEAN-FRANCOIS KAHN SAID THERE EXIST  
CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GISCARD AND CARTER.  
FOR GISCARD, INTENNATIONAL DETENTE CAN ALSO BRING  
ABOUT DOMESTIC DETETE INSIDE TE USSR....GISCARD  
IS MORE TRADITIONAL, MORE CLASSICAL. HE WANTS TO  
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WORK AT THE PROBLEM BUT WITHOUT PROVOCATION OR  
INTERFERENCE -- A REALISTIC POLICY VERSUS A  
MORALISTIC POLICY. COMMENTARY ON JULY 19 MORNING  
RADIO EUROPE ONE AND RADIO LUXEMBOURG STRESSED  
GISCARD'S REMARKS ON CONCORDE RATHER THAN OTHER  
SUBJECTS OF INTERVIEW.

3. CHARLES LAMBROSCHINI IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT  
LE FIGARO JULY 19 WRITES FROM WASHINGTON THAT IT IS  
HOPED IN THE ELYSEE PALACE THAT GISCARD'S CRITICISM  
OF CARTER'S POLICY CORRESPONDS NOT ONLY TO THE  
COMMON FRANCO-GERMAN POSITION, BUT ALSO TO THE  
POSITION OF ROME. (ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI  
MET WITH GISCARD THIS MORNING AND GISCARD WILL MEET  
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THIS EVENING IN STRASBOURG.)  
LAMBROSCHINI SAYS ANONYMOUS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS  
VENTURE THAT THE ANALYSIS OF GISCARD RESPONDS  
PRIMARILY TO FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.  
"TO KEEP THE SUPPORT OF THE GAULLIST ELECTORATE", THEY  
SAY, "GISCARD NEVER MISSES ANY OCCASION TO DEMON-  
STRATE INDEPENDENCE FROM WASHINGTON." THE MEN  
RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY ARE NONETHELESS  
AWARE OF THE GROWING ANXIETIES WHICH CARTER'S  
MISSIONARY ZEAL CREATES IN EUROPE.... PARADOXICALLY,  
IT WAS THE EUROPEANS WHO WERE THE STRONGEST SUPPORTERS  
OF THE THIRD BASKET AT HELSINKI, WHILE THE AMERICANS  
DID NOT CONCEAL THEIR RESERVATIONS.

4. LE MONDE (INDEPENDENT, LEFT OF CENTER) IN  
FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL JULY 19 COMMENTS THAT GISCARD'S  
REMARKS HAVE THE MERIT OF CLARIFYING A DEBATE THAT  
HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE THE GREAT EAST-WEST HUGGING  
PARTY IN HELSINKI TWO YEARS AGO. DID THE WEST MAKE  
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A SUCKER'S BARGAIN WHEN IT SIGNED THE FINAL ACT OF  
THE CSCE? IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEW, THE ANSWER  
IS NEGATIVE. THIS IS WHAT LED HIM TO TAKE THE  
OFFENSIVE ON TWO GROUNDS WHERE THE USSR IS VULNERABLE:  
ARMAMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS....THE FRENCH PRESIDENT  
DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT DETENTE HAS MAGIC VIRTUES,  
BUT IS CONVINCED OF ITS NECESSITY....THE QUESTION IS  
WHETHER IN PRACTICE DETENTE EFFECTIVELY PRODUCES  
"IMPORTANT CHANGES IN SOVIET LIFE."

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TO USIA WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 5877  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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IN VIEW OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, A "SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS" OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS IN THE SOVIET UNION PROVES THIS TO BE THE CASE. THIS AFFIRMATION WOULD DESERVE BEING VERIFIED.

5. LES ECHOS (CONSERVATIVE) JULY 19 COMMENTS THAT ALTHOUGH GISCARD CLAIMS TO BE TRYING TO EASE TENSIONS, HE IS LIKELY TO DARKEN RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES BY LARGEY ENDORSING SOME OF THE GRIEVANCES WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE TOWARD AMERICAN POLICY....THIS POSITION (OF GISCARD) WILL BE WIDELY COMMENTED ON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE TEAM IN THE WHITE HOUSE INTENDS TO GIVE THE FRENCH PRESIDENT FIRM SUPPORT IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMING TO POWER OF THE UNITED LEFT...A PROBLEM LIKELY TO POISON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS TODAY IS CONCORDE, BECAUSE PASSION HAS OVERCOME REASON.

6. BERNARD VEILLET-LAVALLEE IN THE PRO-SOCIALIST UNCLASSIFIED

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LE MATIN JULY 19 COMMENTS THAT WHAT EMERGES FROM THIS INTERVIEW IS THAT GISCARD, IN EXPECTATION OF LEGISLATIVE RESULTS WHICH MIGHT MAKE FRANCE SWING TO THE LEFT AND BRING COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT, SUGGESTS TO HIS GREAT AMERICAN ALLY NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT UPSET A BALANCE MAINTAINED WITH DIFFICULTY IN EUROPE.

7. COMMENTARY IN THE PCF ORGAN L'HUMANITE JULY 19 WAS PREDICTABLE:IT IS OBVIOUS BUT NOT USELESS TO

SAY THAT CARTER'S POLICY VIOLATES THE CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT IN DETENTE, WHICH IMPLIES NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES....  
GISCARD ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION JEOPREDIZES DETENTE BUT DOES NOT DRAW ANY CONCRETE INFERENCE REGARDING THE ACTION FRANCE SHOULD UNDERTAKE.

8. IN NEWSLETTER OF THE GAULLIST RPR PARTY, LA LETTRE DE LA NATION, PIERRE CHARPY SAYS THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT CARTER JEOPARDIZES THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE. THE PROBLEM IS RATHER THAT OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IS FRANCE ENTITLED TO JUDGE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE U.S. IN THE IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION WITH THE USSR? WHILE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS FULLY JUSTIFIED IN PROTESTING TO THE USSR EXPLUSION OF 6 FRENCH COOPERATION WORKERS AND TO THE U.S. ON CONCORDE, JIMMY CARTER IS NOT WRONG EITHER. SO WHAT?

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